

**December 13, 2013**

**Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.**

**Daily Press & Argus: Brighton dispute taken to Lansing; Homeowners' fight reaches high court**

"Does a city have the right to order the demolition of a dilapidated building if repairs would exceed the market value of the structure? This is the crux of an almost five-year-long legal dispute between the city of Brighton and homeowners Marilyn and Leon Bonner; the battle reached the Michigan Supreme Court on Thursday."

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Legal News: 'Selfie' is on the record at state Supreme Court (second article)**

"The word 'selfie' is spoken even at the Michigan Supreme Court. Selfie refers to someone who takes their own picture, usually with a smartphone. Chief Justice Robert Young Jr. used the word Wednesday when talking about a Detroit-area judge who took a picture of his fit, shirtless frame and sent it to a female sheriff's deputy."

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran in Crain's Detroit Business, the Herald Palladium/St. Joseph and the Oakland County Legal News.**

**Oakland County Legal News: Future of Detroit judge hits high court**

[Full story](#)

**Oakland County Legal News: Court examines one of Granholm's last acts**

"A decision to grant but then scratch a parole opportunity for a prisoner hit the docket of the Michigan Supreme Court on Wednesday as justices sparred with lawyers in an unprecedented case about a governor's constitutional power."

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran in the Herald Palladium/St. Joseph.**

**Also see:**

**Prisoner seeks review of former governor's commutation grant – and denial – in appeal Supreme Court hears this week**

**Also before the Court: Ethics charges against judge who had affair with litigant**

[Press release](#)

**Detroit Free Press: Editorial: Michigan ruled by the hypocritical minority**

"Only a month ago, Michigan's Republican state legislators decreed that a half-century-old arrangement under which circuit court judges in Lansing heard most lawsuits against the state government was an affront to democratic rule. Their principal argument was that legal controversies of consequence to every Michigander should not be tried before Ingham County judges elected by just 3% of the electorate."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**Oakland County Legal News: Senate votes to ensure jury trials in state suits**

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Free Press: Rich Robinson: Campaign finance bill a defining moment for Gov. Snyder**

Rich Robinson writes "This week brings a defining moment for the administration of Gov. Rick Snyder [regarding Senate Bill 661 which was passed by the Legislature this week].... Undisclosed campaign ads masquerading as issue ads have since dominated every competitive state campaign. Over half of all spending in Michigan Supreme Court campaigns since 2004 has been off the books — including 75% of the spending in the 2012 campaign."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**Detroit Free Press: Bill shielding issue ad donors lands on Snyder's desk**

[Full story](#)

**The Detroit News: Michigan Senate OKs campaign donation increases**

[Full story](#)

**Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Jack Lessenberry: More 'dark money' will influence politics in Michigan if Snyder doesn't veto**

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Free Press: Judge's girlfriend gets 24 months' probation on DUI charge**

"The girlfriend of a Macomb County judge who admitted driving drunk in January while the judge's young daughters were in her vehicle was sentenced to 24 months' probation [Thursday]. Brenda Conway, 51, of Troy was sentenced in 46th District Court in Southfield. Conway, who is the girlfriend of Macomb County Circuit Judge Richard Caretti, pleaded guilty in October to a misdemeanor charge of operating while intoxicated with occupants younger than 16."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**Associated Press: Woman sentenced for DUI with judge, kids in car**

[Full story](#)

**Note: The Associated Press article also ran in the Detroit News and other media outlets.**

**Detroit Free Press: Judge bans live-blogging in Paul DeWolf murder case**

"A judge in Ann Arbor has canceled live-blogging of testimony in a hearing that will determine whether two men will be tried in the slaying of University of Michigan medical student Paul DeWolf. Ten witnesses have testified so far today, including two police detectives."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**Ann Arbor News: Judge shuts down live blogging from hearing for men accused of killing Paul DeWolf**

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Free Press: Michigan House passes bills to legalize 'edible' pot products, clarify law**

"... Two bills — one that would let communities allow and regulate medical marijuana dispensaries and another that would legalize marijuana-infused products like brownies and oils — passed the House [Thursday] and now move to the Senate, which could begin considering the bills next year.... The bills are needed, supporters said, because court rulings made dispensaries and edible forms of marijuana illegal."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Trio of medical marijuana bills clear state House**

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Legal News: Winter Gala**

"The Italian American Bar Association of Michigan (IABAM) celebrated its Winter Gala Dinner Dance on Friday, Dec. 7, at the Detroit Athletic Club. [Among those attending were current and past IABAM officers as well as members of the bench including Michigan Supreme Court Justice David Viviano, Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Pat Donofrio and judges from Macomb, Oakland and Wayne Counties.]"

[Full story](#)

### **Jackson County Legal News: Jackson Community Foundation grant provides support for Restorative Justice Project**

"Jackson Community Foundation gave a \$7,500 grant in October to Southeastern Dispute Resolution Services (SDRS) to help expand the Restorative Justice Suspension and Expulsion Project, which applies mediation to address student conflicts and avoid suspending or expelling students."

[Full story](#)

### **Macomb County Legal News: Legal Aid and Defender presents 'Laddy' awards**

"Legal Aid and Defender Association honored two judges, a law firm, a corporate office of general counsel and a number of individual attorneys at its third annual 'Laddy' awards ceremony held recently in the historic chief judge's courtroom at the Theodore Levin U.S. Courthouse.... Ed Pokorny Pioneer of Justice Award - Michael F. Sapala, retired Wayne County Circuit Court judge. Friend of LAD - Judge Charles G. Goedert of 43rd District Court, Hazel Park."

[Full story](#)

### **The Macomb Daily: County clerk offers high-tech customer service**

"Long lines of people at the Macomb County Clerk's Office seeking gun permits, birth certificates or court documents could soon be eliminated through a high-tech system that will save you a virtual place in line while you take care of other business.... The latest innovation is also similar to the clerk's office provision for those called to jury duty, which provides them with a hand-held, restaurant-style buzzer that alerts them when they are required to report to a courtroom. Like virtual queuing, that process allows people to window-shop or grab a snack in downtown Mount Clemens rather than standing in line."

[Full story](#)

### **Muskegon County Legal News: Michigan State Bar exam changes set, but law schools are still unhappy**

"Michigan State Bar exam takers appear to be adapting to the no-scaling grading rule put in place last year, with first-time passers hitting 67 percent in July's exam, compared to 62 percent for July 2012. Total passers are at 60 percent in 2013, compared to 55 percent in 2012. And, despite complaints by all of Michigan's law schools, the Board of Law Examiners' stance appears to be what you see is what you get from now on."

[Full story](#)

### **The Oakland Press: Novi judge responds to prosecutor's accusations**

"Attorneys for the Novi judge accused of issuing improper sentences have filed a response in court. In it, they defend the judge's actions, stating that the cases in question were "exceptional" and did not result in repeat offenses. A brief in response to the complaint against 52-1 District Judge Brian MacKenzie was filed Wednesday."

[Full story](#)

### **The Oakland Press: GUEST OPINION: Courts exist to resolve conflicts**

Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Rudy Nichols writes "There are usually two places people try to avoid in life; one is hospitals, the other is courts. When we do experience them, it is often out of necessity. Of legal and governmental institutions, courts are frequently the most used but least understood."

[Full story](#)

## **Washtenaw County Legal News: Julia Owdziej announces candidacy for judge**

"Julia Owdziej has announced her candidacy for Washtenaw County Probate Court Judge. Owdziej (pronounced owd-zi) began working for Washtenaw County in 1991. She served as an assistant prosecuting attorney and probate register and has spent the last 14 years as a Juvenile Court referee.... Owdziej is seeking the seat that will be left vacant by the retirement of Probate Judge Nancy Wheeler."

[Full story](#)